

How to get involved in the HSCB!

Attend a Monthly HSCB Meeting.
Join a workgroup.
Where do you want to make a difference?

- Transportation
- Foster care, Adoption, Kinship Services
- Substance Abuse
- Homelessness
- Healthy Youth
- Suicide Prevention
- Hunger
- Individuals with Disabilities
- Older Adults
- Young Children
- Community Data

Contact

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Livingston HSCB

HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2018

What's New in Livingston?

People always ask, how does Livingston County Collaborate so well? Despite the number of times and ways we explain it, it comes down to one simply fact—We want to work together to support our community. The following story emphasizes exactly that!

A Garden

Livingston Offender Success started a garden at one of the transitional houses used to shelter returning citizens. In order to accomplish this, Livingston Offenders Success, a program under Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County, had staff who reached out to multiple agencies in Livingston County to help make this garden a possibility.

- Gleaners Food Bank donated a \$100 Meijer gift card which made it possible to purchase tools, seeds, seedlings, and fencing to keep critters out of the garden.
- Gleaners also offered the support of their Community Garden Coordinator, Courtney. Courtney also coordinates all of the gardens in the Hunger Council 's Community Garden network.
- St. Mary's Parish in Pinckney heard about the Offender Success garden, through Gleaner's staff, and expressed interest in providing funding to the program to maximize the garden's success.

Livingston County Offender Success Resource Specialist, Tiffany Snay worked closely with Courtney to establish a day to dig the garden. Courtney offered a rototiller to prep the land, but unfortunately come "dig day" the rototiller was not working. The men living at the

transitional house took initiative to grab a shovel and worked together to create the garden bed. They planted the edible flower Nasturtium, in addition to peas, green beans, okra, strawberries, cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, arugula, swiss chard and a variety of herbs.

Livingston Offender Success participants reached out to their network of resources and obtained two traps to catch the groundhogs they felt would compromise the garden. The groundhogs were caught and successfully re-homed to Kensington metro park.

A rain barrel is needed to complete this project, and minimize water cost.

The Livingston Offender Success garden is maintained by residents at the house, and any overflow of produce will be donated to one of the numerous Hunger Council produce stands in Livingston County. Which in turn helps feed people in need in our community.

As you can see, this story is about working together to make a house a home and helping embrace our community members back into their community. Together we do make a difference!



Eviction Diversion Numbers

Here are just a few more Statistics from our Eviction Diversion Program

As of 2017

- 62% were diverted before court
- Of the 38% that did make it to court, LSCCM represented 14% of them.
- They served ALL that showed up to court, unless they were declined
- 930 cases were diverted before court

In addition, LSCCM signed business agreements with 2 mobile home parks to help tie lot rent and house rent together, rather than file twice on the same person. Since mobile home parks make up 50% of all eviction cases, this communication is a very positive step.

Collaboration Works!

Eviction has devastating impacts on a household. Not only does it uproot the family and create instability, it often throws the family into the even more challenging environment of homelessness.

In 2016, in response to high rates of eviction both locally and nationally, the Livingston County Housing Stability Taskforce was formed. The task force created a pilot Eviction Diversion Program (EDP) in 53rd District Court. The program is a collaboration among Livingston County United Way, the Livingston County Continuum of Care, Salvation Army, 53rd District Court and Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM).

Unlike in criminal cases, low-income defendants in civil cases (such as evictions) don't have access to a lawyer. As a result they are often unaware of their legal rights and the steps they can take to prevent eviction. Through the EDP, these low-income tenants not only have access to a free lawyer who can advise them and

negotiate with their landlords, but they are also connected with social service agencies that can assist the family in accessing financial and other resources.

A recent Princeton University research project called "Eviction Lab", led by Matthew Desmond, looked at eviction data in communities across the nation.

According to the data from 2008 to 2012 . . . before implementation of the EDP—Livingston County's eviction rate stood at about 10.5%, of all housing units, which is 1,000 evictions each year. This means that nearly three Livingston County residents were losing their homes each day.

According to the Eviction Lab data, in 2016, the year the EDP began and the most recent year that data is available, Livingston County's eviction rate dropped to less than 1%—far below the nationwide average.

It is too early to declare total victory—there is only one year's data available, but preventing evictions provides a critical foundation for breaking cycles of poverty and social inequities.



Legislation to Watch

Recent Driver Responsibility Legislation

The Michigan Works! Association has partnered with the Michigan Department of Treasury and Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson to eliminate qualifying Driver Responsibility Fees (DRF) before October 1, 2018, for individuals who participate in a qualifying workforce development training program. A number of programs are available to the public and Michigan Works! organizations will assist individuals with enrollment.

William Sleight, Director of Michigan Works! Southeast said "We are eager

to help customers through this process. We offer many flexible services designed to meet your needs that qualify as repayment of the driver responsibility fees. Drivers who are eligible to qualify under the workforce development services should call 1-844-200-3206 or visit <https://www.mwse.org/driver-responsibility-fees/> for more information."

For additional information about Driver Responsibility, please visit <https://www.michigan.gov/driverresponsibility> or the Driver Responsibility Fee [Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Workforce Development Program](#).



Livingston County Community Celebration

17th Annual "Backpack for Kids" project

The Livingston Educational Service Agency (Livingston ESA) is gearing up for the 17th annual "Backpacks for Kids" project. The goal of this project is to provide Livingston County students, whose families are experiencing financial difficulties, with basic school supplies at no cost.

Last year over 1,000 Livingston County students received backpacks filled with basic school supplies. Livingston County residents were very generous in their support of this project. Donations were received from individuals, local businesses and community groups.

We welcome donations for the 2018 LESA "Backpacks for Kids" project. You may drop off items or monetary donations at the Livingston Educational Service Agency (1425 W. Grand River, Howell) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. throughout the summer.

Stories of Hope

Every child loves to play. Play has vital benefits in physical development, cognitive growth and social development that should be awarded to all children and their families. A new initiative is being formed to bring an Inclusive/Universal Design Playground to our community.

Casey Somerville is a champion for this initiative. She is a foster mom and also the mom to Owen. Owen was born with congenital limb differences which causes him to have to navigate the world creatively. He is exactly like every other 2 year old. He is intelligent, energetic, determined and capable, but his surroundings aren't always inclusive.

Livingston County has always been known as cutting edge in efforts, awareness and action. The Inclusive/Universal Design will bring more people to the community and reinforce the community

For a listing of collection sites, please visit our website at LivingstonESA.org and click on the Parent & Community Resources tab. If your organization is interested in becoming a collection site, please contact Judy Paulsen at judypaulsen@livingstonesa.org.

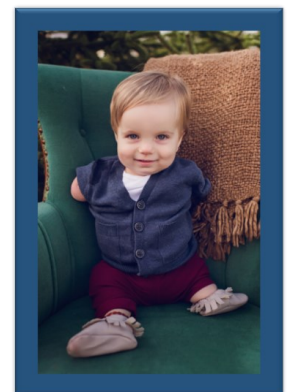
The distribution date is August 16, 2018 from 6-8 p.m. at the LESA Education Center. Our Connect for Kids event will run the same day, starting at 5:00 p.m.

For additional information, please call our Hot Line at (517) 540-6833.



perspective that every person matters. The playground would include accessibility both to equipment and on equipment. It would include ramps, sensory play, various abilities play and unitary surfacing. That way **ALL** children can play together. See example below.

If you would like to learn more about the efforts to build the playground, or want to become a partner, contact Casey directly at caseylotz@gmail.com.



Example of inclusive playground

Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body

622 E. Grand River Ave
Howell, Michigan
48843

Phone: 517-586-2039

Fax: 517-552-2526

E-mail: arennie@cmhliv.org



Ensuring a system of support for members of our community.

What is the Purpose of the Livingston County HSCB?

The Livingston HSCB started in 1989 and was officially recognized as the county Multi-Purpose Collaborative Body by the state and county Board of Commissioners in 1995. Now, referred to as a Community Collaborative by the state, the HSCB is comprised of 26 appointed members that work together to coordinate health and human services across systems. The HSCB also:

- Develops strategies and programs to meet current and future needs
- Fiscally manages state-funded collaborative initiatives
- Monitors the effectiveness and efficiency of collaborative projects

The HSCB does this work through established committees and workgroups which have specific goals and objectives to complete. The HSCB and most workgroups meet monthly and consist of representatives from public and non-profit organizations, business, and interested residents of the county. To learn about the work of the HSCB, contact Anne Rennie at arennie@cmhliv.org.

Upcoming Events in Livingston

CAP Kid's Fair 2017

Saturday, June 2nd and Sunday June 3rd for 10 am– 5 pm.
Event is being held at the Pinckney's Art in the Park Festival

Happy Healthy Summer Kick Off

Join The Livingston County Hunger Council as they Kick off summer with a fun event for the whole family. June 9th at 2/42 Community Church from 10 am—1 pm. Activities include bounce houses, photo booths, arts, crafts, planting, games and so much more. To learn more, contact Darlene Howard at darlene_howard@usc.salvationarmy.org

Livingston County Community Alliance's 1st Annual Golf Outing

June 9th at Whispering Pines Course in Pinckney. 8am Registration
For more information, contact Megan Palmer at Megan@livingstoncatholiccharities.org

Summer Lunch Bunch—opens June 19th

The Salvation Army in coordination with the Hunger Council and United Way, will be operating 6 full sites of Summer Lunch Bunch starting on June 19th. For more information, contact Darlene Howard at darlene_howard@uscsalvationarmy.org

Howell Chamber of Commerce 34th Annual Balloonfest—June 22nd - 24th

See their website for more details—www.michiganchallenge.com

Senior Power Day—August 3rd

Brighton High School will be the host for the 31st Annual Senior Power Day. For more information visit www.livingstoncoa.org.

United Way's 17th Annual Day of Caring - August 15th

Contact Livingston County United Way for details.
lccdayofcaring.org or 810-494-3000

Backpack and Connect for Kids Event—August 16th

Kid's Connect from 5-7 PM and Backpacks from 6-8 PM



ATTENTION ALL GOLFERS!

Summer Golf Outings to support the wonderful agencies who serve our community. Please join us!

June 2nd—Love INC. Contact (517) 552-3620

June 9th—Livingston County Community Alliance. Contact Megan Palmer at megan@livingstoncatholiccharities.org

June 25th—VINA Dental. Contact (810) 844-0240



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